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The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 23 February 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I should like to convey to you the following information:

Lebanon is extremely concerned by the litany of allegations that have been made against it by Israel recently.

For more than six decades, Lebanon has endured the aggressions and threats of Israel and Israeli occupation of its territory. Unfortunately, that state of affairs persists to this day and is an ever-present and mounting challenge to my country's national security.

Meanwhile, the repercussions of the ongoing Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory continue to mount. The most prominent and most tragic example of that is the suffering of the Palestinians who have fled to Lebanon since 1948. Those Palestinians continue to be deprived of the right of return because Israel has persistently refused to implement the relevant internationally authoritative resolutions, above all General Assembly resolution 194 (III).

The war that Israel waged against Lebanon in August 2006 is a cruel example of Israeli aggression. It clearly shows that Israel does not hesitate to use disproportionate and excessive force, and how blithely it violates every principle of international law. Let us not forget that this war displaced nearly a third of Lebanon's population and destroyed infrastructure throughout the country, and that one of its by-products was an oil slick along our county's coast. That slick caused significant, confirmed environmental damage. It was that war that prompted the adoption of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), which Israel, as usual, has failed to respect. Since its adoption, Israel has breached the resolution more than 11,000 times, violating the sovereignty of Lebanon by land, sea and air on a daily basis, as documented by the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of resolution 1701 (2006). Meanwhile, Israel continues to make threats against

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Lebanon without restraint. On many occasions those threats were voiced by senior Israeli officials, who have gone so far as to threaten to destroy Lebanon once again and target its infrastructure and vital facilities.

I should like to reiterate that Lebanon complies fully with all of the relevant authoritative international resolutions, particularly the entirety of resolution 1701 (2006). The full implementation of that resolution is a prerequisite for a just and comprehensive peace in the region, one that is based on respect for the principles of international law, the foremost of which is the right of States to live in peace and security, as well as the right to defend themselves against foreign occupation and external threats.

I should like to call once again on the Security Council and the international community to take immediate and effective action and apply the necessary pressure on Israel, in order to compel it to comply with the provisions of the above-mentioned resolution. Israel continues to pursue a policy of utter disregard for international law and authoritative international resolutions, and that presents a clear threat to regional and international security and peace.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter issued as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 34, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative